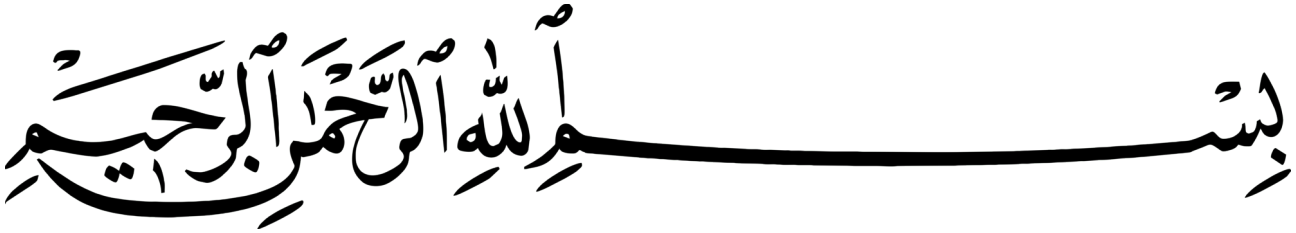
A short advisory message on the eve of the blessed month of Ramadaan

Muhammad ibn Sulaymaan al-'Ulayyit


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.

This is a message from Muhammad ibn Sulaymaan al-‘Ulayyit, addressed to every believing Muslim man and woman. May Allah make fasting the month of Ramadaan easy for us all. Amin.

This is a brief message of advice on the eve of the blessed month of Ramadaan. We ask Allah, the Most Generous, to grant us the opportunity to reach and experience this month and to bless us within it. Our righteous predecessors used to supplicate to Allah for six consecutive months, asking Him to allow them to reach and witness this blessed month.

First and foremost, a wise believer must turn to Allah in sincere repentance for all his sins and mistakes, such as backbiting, spreading gossip, deception and scheming against others, looking at what is unlawful, excessive reliance upon oneself while neglecting reliance upon Allah, arrogance, disobedience to parents, bad character and unjustified anger toward relatives, negligence in performing the prayer in the mosque with the Muslim congregation, and other similar deeds. These actions close the doors of forgiveness and mercy upon the believer and harm his short life, most of which has already passed.

You who will lead the worshippers in prayer in the mosque during the Tarawih prayers: with the many bowings and prostrations you will perform, seek and hope for Allah’s reward, for you and those who pray behind you will be raised to high ranks in Paradise. The Tarawih prayer consists of thirteen rak‘ahs, including the Witr prayer. For centuries, our righteous predecessors adhered to this practice, and it was not opposed by the Islamic scholars.

Likewise, the number of rak‘ahs in Tarawih should not be thought to be limited to eleven alone. Indeed, during the time of ‘Umar ibn al-Khattaab, radiyallahu ‘anhu, twenty-three rak‘ahs of Tarawih were performed. He knew better than us the methodology of the Messenger of Allah, sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, and his way carries weight and importance in being followed, based upon prophetic instruction. Had he erred in this matter, his

contemporaries — such as ‘Ali ibn Abi Taalib, ‘Uthmaan ibn ‘Affaan, Sa’d ibn Abi Waqqaas, and others — would have opposed him. This practice was later followed by our honorable scholars as well.

Each of us should devote ourselves with commitment and consistency throughout this entire month, supplicating to Allah for ourselves, our families, our descendants, the Islamic scholars, and all Muslim believers.

Allah, the Exalted, says:
“Call upon Me; I will respond to you.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds.

Written by:
The righteous and ascetic scholar,
Muhammad ibn Sulaymaan al-‘Ulayyit

Translated from Arabic by:
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